

CARNAHAN AMENDMENT BRINGING ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFGHANISTAN CONTRACTS PASSES

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Friday, 27 May 2011 15:51 - Last Updated Friday, 27 May 2011 15:52

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Amendment to Defense Authorization bill linking funding to contractor accountability passes, will be included in final bill

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – As the FY 2012 Department of Defense Authorization was debated on the House Floor on the night of Wednesday, May 25, Russ Carnahan's amendment to demand greater accountability in the oversight of military contractors in Afghanistan was adopted by unanimous consent, and was included in the final bill passed yesterday.

[Rampant wasteful and inefficient practices among military in contractors in Afghanistan](#) have been the focus of numerous press reports. Carnahan wrote and offered the amendment to condition funding of the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund (ASFF) on assurance from the Secretary of Defense that sufficient management and oversight mechanisms on Afghanistan contracts.

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“In hearings on the Foreign Affairs Oversight Panel, we have learned of mismanagement totaling in the billions of unaccounted for taxpayer dollars,” said Carnahan. “This is unacceptable. Particularly as we prepare to honor our fallen warriors this Memorial Day, it’s essential that we ensure the soundness of our mission in Afghanistan by strengthening accountability. This amendment will place the buck exactly where it should stop – at the top of the department.”

Last year, as Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee charged with oversight of overseas reconstruction funds, Carnahan [held hearings on contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan](#). This amendment forces increased accountability by the Department of Defense over Afghan Security Forces Funding. As the primary means for training and equipping the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), the ASFF is a critical component of our overall strategy to build Afghan capacity and transition to an Afghan-led mission. Unfortunately, however, instances of serious mismanagement and poor oversight of ASFF contracts put billions of taxpayer dollars at risk. Carnahan’s amendment withholds 25% of ASFF funds until the Secretary of Defense certifies to Congress that proper accounting mechanisms are in place.

The amendment was passed by unanimous consent the House of Representatives, and was included in the final Defense Authorization bill, which passed 392-96.

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